United Nations A/56/562

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 99

Operational activities for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Operational activities for development:

"(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 14th to 16th, 22nd and 38th to 40th meetings, on 25 and 26 October, 5 November and 10 to 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.14-16, 22 and 38-40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 1 to 3 October (see A/C.2/56/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/56/562 and Add.1 and 2.

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3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 99
Operational activities for development

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/56/3)[1]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/56/174)

Letter dated 7 September 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/358 and Corr.1)

Letter dated 21 November 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-fifth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 November 2001 (A/56/647)

Letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the statement of the Emir of Qatar at the opening of the thirtieth ordinary session of the Al-Shourah Council of Qatar, held in Doha on 19 November 2001 (A/56/649-E/2001/1111)

(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General on operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding frameworks and evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (A/56/70-E/2001/58)

Report of the Secretary-General of comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 1999 (A/56/70/Add.1-E/2001/58/Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2000 (A/56/70/Add.2-E/2001/58/Add.2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system for development (A/56/320)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities undertaken by the United Nations system for development: analysis of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192 (A/56/320/Add.1)

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its twelfth session (A/56/39)[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (A/56/134)

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[1] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/56/3).

[2] Ibid., Supplement No. 39.

Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community: action taken by the United Nations system (A/56/134/Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/56/465)

4. At the 14th meeting, on 25 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, a representative of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.2/56/SR.14).

II. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

5. At its 40th meeting, on 12 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/56/174) (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[3]

[3] A/56/174.

United Nations A/56/562/Add.1

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 99 (a)

Operational activities for development: triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 99 (see A/56/562, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 22nd and 40th meetings, on 5 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.13 and A/C.2/56/L.72

2. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/56/L.13), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and 53/192 of 15 December 1998, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/26 of 26 July 1998, 1999/5 and 1999/6 of 23 July

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1999, 2000/19 and 2000/20 of 28 July 2000 and 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, and other relevant resolutions,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,

"*Reaffirming* that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have an important role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process in a continuously changing global context,

"*Reaffirming also* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

"*Stressing* that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and should therefore be country-driven,

"*Stressing also* that the United Nations development system, in order to ensure national ownership of its operational activities for development and assist programme countries in meeting the current challenges of globalization and international development goals, should integrate its country-level operations with national policies and programmes under the leadership and with the full participation of the Government,

"*Stressing further*, in that context, the need to take into account the time-bound targets identified in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes and commitments of relevant major United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system,

"*Bearing in mind* that the effectiveness of operational activities should be assessed by their impact on the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that globalization, technological change and the need for the integration of the developing countries in the world economy represent major challenges for development,

"*Recognizing also* that new technologies, including information and communication technologies, present an opportunity to accelerate development in developing countries, but that the access to those technologies is uneven and that a digital divide still exists between developing countries and the rest of the world,

"*Noting* that, while the scope of operational activities of the organizations of the United Nations system includes situations where a more

flexible response capacity of the system is required, the focus of operational activities should be on actions that have a long-term impact on poverty eradication and development in accordance with the respective mandates of the United Nations funds and programmes,

"*Recognizing* the urgent and specific needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,

"*Emphasizing* that developing countries are responsible for their development processes and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their national development efforts,

"*Recalling* the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policies formulated by the General Assembly, in particular during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

"*Recognizing* that the preference for short-term and earmarked development funding has resulted in the failure to reach a critical mass of core resources required for long-term development cooperation and compromised the efficient use of funds for attaining development goals and towards more integrated development support,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and on progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding frameworks and evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

"2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 47/199, 50/120, 53/192 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, and stresses the need to implement fully, on the basis of lessons learned, all the elements of those resolutions in a coherent and timely manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

"3. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

"4. *Emphasizes also* the need to fulfil the commitments, goals and targets set in the Millennium Declaration and by the major United Nations conferences, and in that context reiterates the importance of continuously monitoring progress made in that direction;

"5. *Stresses* that the United Nations development system, in order to ensure national ownership of its operational activities for development and assist programme countries in meeting the current challenges of globalization and international development goals, should integrate its country-level operations with national policies and programmes under the leadership and with the full participation of the Government;

"I. Role of operational activities in response to global challenges

"6. *Stresses also* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to focus their efforts at the field level on priority areas, in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries, in particular assisting programme countries to respond more effectively to the economic and social impact of globalization, facilitating their integration into the world economy, accelerating their economic growth and development and reducing their poverty;

"7. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system to review, in consultation with the Governments concerned, the technical skill profiles of their country offices in order to respond to the requests for support from programme countries;

"8. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adapt their strategies and activities and enhance their coordination and collaboration, taking into account the need to assist programme countries in attaining the development goals of the Millennium Summit and major United Nations conferences;

"9. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support, through its operational activities for development, national efforts to acquire the capacities and infrastructure required to mobilize information and communication technologies and put them at the service of development, and encourages all organizations of the system to collaborate with the recently established United Nations task force on information and communication technologies;

"II. Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

"10. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, are the bedrock of the operational activities of the United Nations system and, in this regard, notes with serious concern the overall decline or stagnation in core resources available to the United Nations funds and programmes, and emphasizes the need for a substantial and sustained increase in the core or regular resources for operational activities for development;

"11. *Notes with regret* that, although significant progress has already been achieved on the governance and functioning of the United Nations development system, there has not been, as part of that overall process of change, a significant increase in core resources for operational activities for development, and expresses serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular in terms of contributions to core resources;

"12. *Strongly reaffirms* that the impact of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199, 48/162, 50/120, 52/203 and 53/192 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/19;

"13. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

"14. *Requests* that the establishment of new trust funds by United Nations funds and programmes be done on an exceptional basis after consultation with and approval by the respective executive boards;

"15. *Stresses* the need for continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance and welcomes steps that have been taken to that end, and encourages the use of information technologies as a means to support more effectively the delivery of development cooperation by the United Nations system;

"16. *Emphasizes* the importance of shared responsibility in a spirit of partnership, taking into account official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, underlines the need to avoid overdependence on a limited number of donors, and calls on donors to increase their contributions to the core or regular resources of United Nations funds and programmes, encouraging donor countries to increase multi-year pledging commitments of core resources;

"17. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its substantive session of 2003, the conclusions reached at the present triennial policy review on resources for operational activities for development, as well as the conclusions of the International Conference on Financing for Development planned for 2002, reviewing the progress on the issue of funding of development cooperation activities of the United Nations system;

"III. Capacity-building

"18. *Stresses* that capacity-building and its sustainability should be explicitly articulated as a goal of technical assistance provided by operational activities with the aim of strengthening national capacities, and requests the United Nations organizations to review their efforts in the field of capacity-building and to report, through the Secretary-General, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002 on the results achieved in this area;

"19. *Reiterates* the need to intensify the use by the United Nations system, to the fullest extent possible and practicable, of available national expertise and indigenous technologies in the implementation of operational activities and in the recruitment and training of national project personnel, including national consultants, for the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system;

"IV. United Nations Development Assistance Framework

"20. *Takes note* of the national experiences related to the introduction of the pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment, and also takes note of the evaluation of the

United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

"21. *Encourages* the United Nations system to ensure that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment constitute a country-driven, collaborative and coherent response of the United Nations system to national priorities and policies, as expressed in relevant national development plans and strategies;

"22. *Recognizes* that the major coordinating responsibilities of the Government of programme countries in the formulation of coordination frameworks, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment, require its full involvement and leadership;

"23. *Requests* the United Nations system to intensify capacity-building initiatives to support national Governments in their function of coordinating all forms of external assistance, including that received from the United Nations system, also through a more effective involvement of programme countries in the management of all forms of coordination frameworks;

"24. *Recommends* to the organizations of the United Nations system that, when the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment are undertaken, measures should be adopted to simplify programming and country assessment procedures so as to reduce transaction costs and avoid additional procedural requirements and workload for recipient countries;

"25. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to undertake an evaluation of the progress of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment processes and their impact on the field of operational activities, as an integral part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities, and to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004, on the results of such an evaluation, including lessons learned and recommendations made, for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

"V. Evaluation of operational activities for development

"26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the monitoring and evaluation of the operational activities of the United Nations system in the context of the programme approach, in order to enhance the effectiveness and impact, in the context of the programme approach, of development cooperation of the system on the recipient countries, and reiterates that the monitoring and evaluation process of operational activities, including where appropriate joint evaluations by the United Nations system, should be impartial and independent, under the overall leadership of the Government;

"27. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the capacities of the recipient countries to perform effective programme, project and financial monitoring, as well as impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations, and underlines the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on questions relating to evaluation among

recipient Governments and the United Nations development system at the country level;

"28. *Recognizes* that a comprehensive approach to monitoring and evaluation calls for a closer involvement of national authorities in the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of operational activities, to ensure that the results of those evaluations are utilized to improve the content of developmental activities and their impact;

"29. *Takes note* of the impact evaluations of capacity-building and poverty eradication undertaken according to resolution 53/192, and requests the organizations of the United Nations system to review the conclusions reached by those evaluations and lessons learned in the light of their own experience and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002, through the Secretary-General, on the results of that review;

"30. *Requests* that the impact evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system be continued on a more extensive scale, urges donor countries to provide the necessary support for this effort, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of this impact evaluation activity to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the triennial policy review;

"31. *Reiterates* the call in resolution 53/192 for recipient Governments concerned to be fully and effectively involved in the impact evaluation of operational activities, and encourages the United Nations system to support those countries that intend to undertake the evaluations themselves, as and when required;

"32. *Reiterates also* the need for the United Nations system to strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that the lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied to programming processes at the operational level and that evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage, requests the funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system to carry out an assessment and disseminate the experience so acquired through effective and efficient cooperation within the United Nations system, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002 on this matter;

"VI. Simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures

"33. *Reaffirms* that simplification and harmonization of procedures, as well as their decentralization, as adopted by the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, should be responsive to the needs of developing countries;

"34. *Notes* the progress achieved in the simplification and harmonization of programming cycles and rules and procedures, and calls on the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to improve coordination efforts in the field by taking further steps at the headquarters level to enhance and ensure the sustainability of this process;

"35. *Emphasizes* that the simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures should aim at reducing, where appropriate, the complexities and diversity of requirements, which still place enormous burdens on the recipient countries through high transaction costs, and that innovations in this area should ensure, in their implementation, the full participation of the Government, with the objective of reducing administrative and financial costs to the recipient country as well as to the United Nations system;

"36. *Calls upon* the United Nations system for an assessment of the transaction costs borne by recipient countries in programming and implementing operational activities for development, and their comparison with the total expenditures of operational activities in the field, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this question to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003;

"37. *Recognizes* that the diversity of the programming procedures of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies results from the diversity of their mandates as well as the decisions of their respective governing bodies, nevertheless calls upon those organizations to make special efforts to utilize all avenues for stronger cooperation and coordination, which should be complementary to similar coordination efforts at the country level, and urges them to keep recipient countries fully informed of headquarters decisions;

"38. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group and the Administrative Committee on Coordination to address the requirements for further simplification of procedures and to submit, through the Secretary-General, a yearly report to the Economic and Social Council on progress achieved in these areas;

"VII. Resident coordinator system

"39. *Reaffirms* that the resident coordinator system is an important vehicle in the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations system at the country level and a key instrument for the efficient and effective coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to continue to provide support to the resident coordinator system;

"40. *Recognizes* efforts, including those made through the United Nations Development Group, to further improve the resident coordinator system, and appreciates the progress achieved so far in broadening the pool of resident coordinators and in improving their gender balance, and invites the funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system to make further efforts in that direction;

"41. *Encourages* the establishment of more effective mechanisms for a more direct and immediate dialogue, feedback, participation and interaction between the resident coordinator and the specialized agencies, including small technical agencies and organizations of the United Nations system without field level representation, also through a wider use of information and communication technologies;

"42. *Recognizes* the need to engage more effectively and substantively the Government of the recipient country in joint activities of the resident coordinator system, such as theme groups, including for planning and programming;

"43. *Requests* the resident coordinator system to assist Governments in their efforts towards implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, and encourages further work by the country-level theme groups;

"44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue improving and strengthening the resident coordinator system through the support and participation of all organizations of the United Nations system, including those with no field-level representation and the regional commissions, on the basis of their respective mandates and in close consultation with the national Government;

"VIII. Planning, programming and implementation

"45. *Encourages* greater cooperation among the World Bank, regional development banks and all funds and programmes with a view to increased complementarity and better division of labour, as well as enhanced coherence in their sectoral activities, building on the existing arrangements and fully in accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government;

"46. *Notes* the progress achieved in the area of common premises and shared services at the country level within the United Nations system, recognizes the need to justify the pursuit of common premises on the basis of the adequate nature and size of the development cooperation programmes and projects, reaffirms the need to take fully into account cost-benefit studies as called for in relevant resolutions, and encourages further implementation of such initiatives, where appropriate, while ensuring that there will be no additional burden imposed on host countries;

"47. *Recognizes* that the utilization of advanced information and communication technologies could also provide the necessary platform for more coordination and cohesion at the field level;

"IX. Humanitarian assistance

"48. *Reiterates* that the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development often overlap and occur simultaneously, and notes the need for a comprehensive approach to countries in crisis, national authorities having a lead role in all aspects of the recovery plan, and also notes in this context the need for an early application of developmental tools in humanitarian emergencies;

"49. *Stresses* that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that additional resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

"X. Gender

"50. *Notes* the progress achieved in gender mainstreaming in operational activities;

"51. *Also notes* the continuing efforts to improve the gender balance on appointments within the United Nations system at the headquarters and at the country level in positions that affect operational activities;

"52. *Calls* for renewed efforts in gender mainstreaming in the framework of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in all fields, in particular in support of poverty eradication;

"XI. Regional dimensions of operational activities

"53. *Reiterates* the growing need for incorporating the regional and sub-regional dimension, where appropriate, in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and encourages the resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, to secure greater involvement of the regional commissions, taking into account their agreed mandates and work programmes, in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate;

"XII. South-South cooperation/economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

"54. *Notes* that country-driven programming offers additional opportunities for greater use of technical cooperation among developing countries modalities by programme countries, and reiterates its call on the United Nations system to take more concerted and coordinated measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts, including by developing specific mechanisms to mainstream this modality into the United Nations coordination frameworks in collaboration with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, and all other relevant international institutions;

"55. *Reiterates* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and in this context requests the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

"56. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects, and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support for the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to take similar measures;

"XIII. Follow-up

"57. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and reiterates the request to the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

"58. *Invites* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of those funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and major United Nations conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

"59. *Reiterates* the provisions of its resolution 48/162, which details the respective functions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, and encourages the Economic and Social Council, within its institutional role, to provide overall guidance to the United Nations system on operational activities for development;

"60. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive session, to focus on lessons learned and impact evaluations in the implementation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and to provide the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system with policy guidance;

"61. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2002, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

"62. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 2002 and 2003, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

"63. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

3. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Rapporteur of the Committee, Jana Simonova (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Triennial policy

review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/56/L.72), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.13.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.72 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.72, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 53/192 of 15 December 1998, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/5 and 1999/6 of 23 July 1999, and 2000/19 and 2000/20 of 28 July 2000, agreed conclusions 2001/1 of the Council of 4 July 2001,[1] the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Council of 18 July 2001,[2] Council resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] of 8 September 2000 and its importance for international development cooperation, including the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in particular the development and poverty eradication goals and targets contained therein,

Reaffirming that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system have an important role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process in a continuously changing global context,

Reaffirming also that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/56/3), chap. V.

[2] See ibid., chap. III.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and should therefore be country-driven,

Bearing in mind that the effectiveness of operational activities should be assessed by their impact on poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development of recipient countries as set out in the commitments, goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration and of the major United Nations conferences,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken so far to rationalize and improve the functioning and impact of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies,

Recognizing that globalization, technological change and the need for the integration of the developing countries and other recipient countries in the world economy represent major challenges and at the same time opportunities for their development,

Recognizing also that new technologies, including information and communication technologies, present an opportunity to accelerate development, especially in developing countries, but that the access to these technologies is uneven and that a digital divide still prevails,

Noting that, while the scope of operational activities of the organizations of the United Nations system includes situations where a more flexible response capacity of the system is required, the focus of operational activities should be on actions that have a long-term impact on poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Emphasizing that developing countries are responsible for their development processes and, in this context, stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their national development efforts,

Recognizing that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition and other recipient countries,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policies formulated by the General Assembly, in particular during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

Noting with deep concern the failure to provide the United Nations development system with a critical mass of the core resources required to enable long-term development cooperation towards attaining development goals and targets and towards providing a more integrated development support,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development

of the United Nations system[4] and on progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding frameworks and evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 47/199, 50/120, 53/192 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B, and stresses the need to implement fully, on the basis of lessons learned, all of the elements of those resolutions in a coherent and timely manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. *Stresses* the primary responsibility of national Governments for their country's development, and recognizes the importance of national ownership of development programmes;

4. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

5. *Emphasizes also* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to enhance their coordination in accordance with their mandates, mission statements and the relevant decisions of their governing bodies in order to avoid overlapping and duplication and to enhance their complementarity;

6. *Emphasizes further* the need to fulfil the commitments, goals and targets set in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and by the major United Nations conferences, and in that context reiterates the importance of continuously monitoring progress made in that direction;

7. *Stresses* that the United Nations development system, in order to ensure national ownership of its operational activities for development, should integrate its country-level operations with national policies and programmes for development and poverty eradication, including, as appropriate, national poverty reduction strategies, under the leadership of the Government;

8. *Stresses also* that the United Nations development system should assist programme countries in addressing the goals and targets identified in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes and commitments of relevant major United Nations conferences, in the context of the current challenges and opportunities of globalization;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken so far to improve the functioning and the impact of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in this regard encourages the organizations of the United Nations system to continue those efforts with a view to improving further the effectiveness and increasing the relevance of such activities;

I. Role of operational activities in the context of a globalizing world

10. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system, in accordance with their respective mandates, to focus their efforts at the field level in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the

[4] A/56/320 and Add.1.
[5] A/56/70-E/2001/58.

goals, targets and commitments set in the Millennium Declaration and by the major United Nations conferences;

11. *Recognizes* in this context the need for all organizations of the United Nations system to assist programme countries to respond more effectively to the economic and social impact of globalization and to support their efforts to integrate into the world economy, to accelerate their economic growth and development and to reduce their poverty;

12. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adapt their strategies and activities and enhance their coordination and collaboration, in order to enhance their supportive role in meeting the commitments, goals and targets of the Millennium Assembly and major United Nations conferences, in particular the development and poverty eradication goals and targets;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support national efforts to acquire the capacities and infrastructure required to mobilize information and communication technologies and put them at the service of development, and encourages all organizations of the system to collaborate with the recently established United Nations task force on information and communication technologies;

II. Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

14. *Stresses* that core resources, inter alia, because of their untied nature, are the bedrock of the operational activities of the United Nations system and, in this regard, notes with serious concern the overall decline or stagnation in core resources available to many United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme;

15. *Strongly reaffirms* that the impact of operational activities for development of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in core or regular resources on a predictable, continuous and sustained basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199, 48/162, 50/120, 53/192 and parts relevant to operational activities for development of resolution 52/12 B;

16. *Notes* the efforts of the executive boards and secretariats of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Children's Fund to establish multi-year funding frameworks that integrate programme objectives, resources, budgets and outcomes, with the objective of increasing core resources and enhancing their predictability, and in this regard invites them to continue to develop and refine the frameworks as a strategic resource management tool;

17. *Stresses* in this regard the continued need for funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system to continue to report on the overall results achieved to their executive boards or governing bodies and to the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Notes with regret* that, although significant progress has been achieved with regard to the governance and functioning of the United Nations development

system, there has not been, as part of that overall process of change, a significant increase in core resources for operational activities for development;

19. *Underlines* the need to avoid over-dependence on a limited number of donors, emphasizes the importance of shared responsibility in a spirit of partnership, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and calls upon donors and countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the core or regular resources of United Nations funds and programmes;

20. *Appreciates* in this context the efforts of countries, including donor and programme countries, which have increased or maintained their high level of contributions to the core resources of United Nations funds and programmes, and of those which have made multi-year pledges to core resources;

21. *Notes* the increase in non-core resources, including cost-sharing, trust funds and non-traditional sources of financing, as a mechanism to supplement the means of operational activities for development, contributing to an increase in total resources, while recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources;

22. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries;

23. *Requests* that the establishment of new trust funds by United Nations funds and programmes be done in accordance with their mandates, mission statements and the relevant decisions of their governing bodies, and that such new trust funds, to the extent possible, be multi-donor in nature and not detrimental to core or regular resources;

24. *Notes* in this context the contributions of private sources, which can supplement but cannot substitute for contributions of Governments, to finance or extend programmes implemented within existing guidelines of United Nations funds and programmes;

25. *Stresses* the need for continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency, management and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes steps that have been taken to that end;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, for consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, a report presenting alternative options to the current modality of the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, including a regular pledging event, taking into account the funding sessions convened under the multi-year funding frameworks, the needs of other United Nations system agencies, appropriate timing and options to enhance public support for United Nations operational activities for development, including through the proposed options;

27. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its substantive session of 2003, the conclusions reached at the present triennial policy review on resources for operational activities for development, reviewing the progress made on

the issue of funding of development cooperation activities of the United Nations system;

III. Capacity-building

28. *Stresses* that capacity-building and its sustainability should be explicitly articulated as a goal of technical assistance provided by operational activities of the United Nations system with the aim of strengthening national capacities and that the technical skills profiles of country offices should be regularly assessed to ensure effective capacity-building of the recipient countries, and requests the United Nations organizations to review their efforts in the field of capacity-building and to report, through the Secretary-General, to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2002, on the results achieved in this area;

29. *Stresses also* the importance of disseminating, to the fullest extent possible, the expertise acquired through the technical assistance provided by operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the programme countries;

30. *Reiterates* that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible and practicable, available national expertise and indigenous technologies in the implementation of operational activities and reiterates its call for the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, remuneration and training of national project personnel, including national consultants, for the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system;

31. *Requests* the United Nations system to enhance the capacity of national Governments to coordinate the external assistance received from the international community, including from the United Nations system;

32. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system to support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments to establish databanks and carry out poverty assessments at the country level;

IV. Common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework

33. *Notes* that, while progress has been made since the introduction of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in its pilot phase, there still is a need to continue to improve the preparatory process and the quality of these instruments, inter alia, on the basis of the recommendations of the external evaluation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General[5] and his recommendations,[6] with a view to ensuring their effectiveness;

34. *Requests* the United Nations system to conduct the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes as efforts to improve support for national development priorities and policies, and stresses that full governmental participation and leadership is required at all stages of these processes;

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[6] See A/56/320.

35. *Stresses* the need to ensure the full and active participation of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

36. *Encourages* the United Nations system to ensure full and active system-wide collaboration and coherence in developing the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes;

37. *Recognizes* the need to ensure that lessons learned in the elaboration of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework are systematically shared within the United Nations system and with Governments of programme countries and other development partners;

38. *Recognizes also* the common country assessment as a common analytical instrument for the United Nations development system which takes into account national priorities and needs as well as the commitments, goals targets set in the Millennium Declaration and by the major United Nations conferences;

39. *Recognizes further* that the common country assessment can also be used by recipient countries in formulating their own national policies;

40. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, where it exists, is the common planning framework for the development operations of the United Nations system at the country level, consisting of common objectives and strategies of cooperation, a programme resource framework and proposals for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation;

41. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure consistency and complementarity of country programmes and other similar instruments used in individual organizations of the system with the approved United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

42. *Notes* the role that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should play to facilitate the contribution of the United Nations system to the integrated and coordinated implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits at the country level and to provide a more coherent and integrated response by the United Nations system to national development priorities;

43. *Notes* the importance of closer consultation in the formulation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework among national Governments, relevant United Nations development agencies, including specialized agencies, and other relevant stakeholders;

44. *Encourages* greater cooperation between the World Bank, regional development banks and all funds and programmes, taking into account their respective competencies, mandates and comparative advantages, with a view to achieving increased complementarity and better division of labour, as well as enhanced coherence in their sectoral activities, building on the existing arrangements and in full accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government and, in this regard, emphasizes the importance of ensuring, under the leadership of national Governments, greater consistency between the strategic frameworks developed by the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and the Bretton

Woods institutions, and the national poverty reduction strategies, including the poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

45. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system, when the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework are undertaken, to ensure that measures are adopted to simplify and harmonize country assessment procedures and programming so as to reduce transaction costs and avoid additional procedural requirements and workload for recipient countries and United Nations country teams;

46. *Encourages* bilateral donors and the United Nations system to coordinate more actively at the field level, under the leadership of recipient Governments, inter alia, by using the common country assessment;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to undertake an evaluation of the progress of the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and their impact on the field of operational activities, as an integral part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities, and to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004, on the results of such an evaluation, including lessons learned and recommendations made, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

V. Evaluation of operational activities for development

48. *Emphasizes* the importance of the monitoring and evaluation of operational activities of the United Nations system in order to enhance their effectiveness and impact, and reiterates that the monitoring and evaluation process of operational activities, including, where appropriate, joint evaluations by the United Nations system, should be impartial and independent, under the overall leadership of the Government;

49. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the capacities of the recipient countries to perform effective programme, project and financial monitoring, as well as impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations, and underlines the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on questions relating to evaluation among recipient Governments and the United Nations development system, in particular the members of the United Nations Development Group, at the country level;

50. *Recognizes* that a comprehensive and participatory approach to monitoring and evaluation calls for a closer involvement of national authorities and civil society in the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of operational activities, in order to ensure that the results of those evaluations are utilized to improve operational activities for development and their impact;

51. *Notes* that coordination activities, though beneficial, represent transaction costs that are borne by both recipient countries and the organizations of the United Nations system, and emphasizes the need for their continuous evaluation and for an analysis and assessment of costs compared with the total programme expenditures on operational activities for development in order to ensure maximum efficiency and feasibility;

52. *Takes note* of the impact evaluations of capacity-building and poverty eradication undertaken according to resolution 53/192 and requests the organizations of the United Nations system to review the conclusions of those evaluations and the lessons learned and to incorporate them in the light of their own experience into their operational activities for development;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide, in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review, an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and of the functioning of the United Nations development system at the country level, and to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2002, in consultation with Member States and on the basis of the experience acquired with the impact evaluation studies, suggestions on how to strengthen the modalities and enhance the approach for such an assessment, in particular in the areas identified in the present resolution;

54. *Reiterates* the need for recipient Governments concerned to be fully and effectively involved in the assessment of the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

55. *Requests* the United Nations system at the country level to support those Governments that intend to undertake capacity-building impact evaluations themselves, as and when required;

56. *Reiterates* the need for the United Nations system to strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that the lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied to programming processes at the operational level and that evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage, requests the Secretary-General to carry out an impartial and independent assessment of the extent to which the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies at the field level learn lessons from their evaluations, and to formulate proposals on how to improve the feed-back mechanisms at the field level, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 in this regard;

VI. Simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures

57. *Reaffirms* that simplification and harmonization of procedures, as well as their decentralization, should support improved organizational efficiency and effectiveness and be responsive to the needs of recipient countries;

58. *Notes* the progress achieved in the harmonization of programming cycles, the harmonization of the programme approval process and the simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Group, and calls upon the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to continue to improve coordination efforts by taking further steps to enhance and ensure the sustainability of that process;

59. *Emphasizes* that the simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures should aim at reducing, where appropriate, the complexities and diversity of requirements, which still place an enormous burden on the recipient countries through high transaction costs, and that innovations in this area should achieve, in their implementation, the objective of reducing the administrative and financial costs to the recipient country as well as to the United Nations system;

60. *Requests* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to examine ways to further simplify their rules and procedures and, in this context, to accord the issue of simplification and harmonization high priority, and to take concrete steps in the following areas: the decentralization and delegation of authority; the financial regulations; the procedures for implementing programmes and projects and, in particular, the requirements in terms of monitoring and reporting; the common shared services at country offices; and the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel;

61. *Requests* the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002 a programme of work for full simplification and harmonization in the above-mentioned areas, to be completed before the end of 2004, including provisions to phase out redundant rules and procedures, benchmarks, responsibilities and a timetable to monitor the progress made towards reaching that target;

62. *Requests* the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group to facilitate the definition of the above-mentioned agenda and its implementation;

63. *Requests* the funds and programmes to provide, in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, specific information on the progress achieved in reaching the above-mentioned target;

64. *Invites* the executive boards and governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to assess regularly the progress achieved in the area of simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures;

65. *Requests* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to address the requirements for further simplification and harmonization of procedures;

VII. Resident coordinator system

66. *Reaffirms* that the resident coordinator system, within the framework of national ownership, has a key role to play in the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations system at the country level, including in the formulation of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and a key instrument for the efficient and effective coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to enhance support to the resident coordinator system;

67. *Appreciates* efforts, including through the United Nations Development Group, to improve further the resident coordinator system and the progress achieved so far in broadening the pool of resident coordinators, improving their gender balance, using competency assessments to select resident coordinator candidates, and implementing improved staff training and annual performance appraisals and urges the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to make further efforts in that direction, including through appropriate training and recruitment of qualified staff with the required professional skills and backgrounds;

68. *Encourages* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to make full use of the United Nations Staff College as an institution for system-wide knowledge management, training and learning;

69. *Encourages* enhanced dialogue, feedback, participation and interaction between the resident coordinator on the one hand, and the specialized agencies, small technical agencies, the regional commissions and organizations of the United Nations system without field level representation on the other, including through a wider use of information and communication technologies;

70. *Encourages also* the international financial institutions and other development partners to support the resident coordinator system, including through enhanced dialogue, in addressing national development objectives;

71. *Recognizes* the need for the resident coordinator system to interact more effectively and substantively with the Government of the recipient country, as well as with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

72. *Requests* the resident coordinator system to assist Governments in their efforts towards implementation of the commitments, goals and targets set in the Millennium Declaration and by the major United Nations conferences, and encourages further work by the country-level theme groups;

73. *Requests* all organizations of the United Nations system, including those with no field-level representation and the regional commissions, to continue to improve and strengthen the resident coordinator system through their support to and active participation in that system, on the basis of their respective mandates and in close consultation with the national Government;

VIII. United Nations Development Group

74. *Recognizes* the progress achieved towards a more coherent United Nations performance in the development field in the past three years, as reflected by a new culture of shared responsibility, cooperation and coordination among the members of the United Nations Development Group, and in particular the role of the Executive Committee of the Group;

75. *Requests* the member organizations of the United Nations Development Group, and in particular the member organizations represented in its Executive Committee, to continue to support and actively participate in the work of the United Nations Development Group;

IX. Planning, programming and implementation

76. *Decides* that, with the agreement of the host country, the United Nations development system should assist national Governments in creating an enabling environment in which the links among national Governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector involved in the development process are strengthened, with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

77. *Encourages* greater cooperation among the World Bank, regional development banks and all funds and programmes with a view to increased complementarity and better division of labour, as well as enhanced coherence in

their sectoral activities, building on the existing arrangements and in full accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government;

78. *Recognizes* that the diversity of programming procedures of the United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies results from the diversity of their mandates and the decisions of their respective governing bodies, and this notwithstanding, calls upon these organizations to intensify their efforts to utilize all avenues for stronger cooperation and coordination at the headquarters level which should complement similar coordination efforts at the country level, and urges them to keep countries fully informed of decisions taken at headquarters;

79. *Notes* the progress achieved in the area of common premises and shared services at the country level within the United Nations system, reaffirms the need to take fully into account cost-benefit studies as called for in relevant resolutions, and encourages further implementation of such initiatives, where appropriate, while ensuring that there will be no additional burden imposed on host countries;

80. *Recognizes* that the utilization of advanced information and communication technologies could also provide the necessary platform for more coordination and cohesion at the field level;

81. *Encourages* the use of information technologies as a means to support more effectively the delivery of development cooperation by the United Nations system, and therefore calls for the urgent harmonization of the information technology platforms utilized by the United Nations system, at both the field and headquarters levels;

X. Humanitarian assistance

82. *Reiterates* that the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously, and notes the urgent need to develop, through a strategic framework, when appropriate, a comprehensive approach to countries in crisis, that the development of such a comprehensive approach must involve national authorities as well as the United Nations system, donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that national authorities must take a leading role in all aspects of the recovery plan, notes in this context the need for an early application of developmental tools in humanitarian emergencies and takes note with appreciation of the recommendations included in the report of the Secretary-General[4] in this regard;

83. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries which have substantially contributed to humanitarian assistance during natural and man-made disasters;

84. *Stresses* that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

XI. Gender

85. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in gender mainstreaming in operational activities and encourages further work in the areas of equitable access to financial and productive resources to ensure a reverse in the feminization of poverty;

86. *Encourages* the continuing efforts to improve the gender balance on appointments within the United Nations system at the headquarters and at the country level in positions that affect operational activities;

87. *Calls* for renewed and accelerated efforts in gender mainstreaming in the framework of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in all fields, in particular in support of poverty eradication, and encourages the empowerment of women as a priority for operational activities for development;

XII. Regional dimensions of operational activities

88. *Reiterates* the growing need for incorporating the regional and subregional dimensions, where appropriate, in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and encourages the resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, to secure the greater involvement of the regional commissions, taking into account their agreed mandates and work programmes, in the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate;

XIII. South-South cooperation/economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

89. *Reiterates* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and in this context requests the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

90. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects, and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support for the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to take similar measures;

XIV. Follow-up

91. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and reiterates the request to the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

92. *Invites* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of those funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and major United Nations conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

93. *Reiterates* the provisions of its resolutions 48/162, 50/227 and 52/12 B which detail the respective functions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, and encourages the Economic and Social Council, within the context of its institutional role, to provide overall guidance to the United Nations system on operational activities for development;

94. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2002, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

95. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 2002 and 2003, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

United Nations A/56/562/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 99 (b)

Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 99 (see A/56/562, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 22nd and 38th to 40th meetings, on 5 November and 10 to 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 38-40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.14 and A/C.2/56/L.54

2. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (A/C.2/56/L.14), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Stressing* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences and for

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/56/562 and Add.1-2.

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ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

"*Recognizing* that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

"*Reaffirming* its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and 50/119 of 20 December 1995, 52/205 of 18 December 1997 and 54/226 of 22 December 1999 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

"*Reiterating* the continued relevance and validity of the principles and objectives embodied in the Group of 77's Caracas Programme of Action (1981) on economic cooperation among developing countries, the San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action (1997) on South-South cooperation in trade, investment and finance, the Bali Declaration and Plan of Action (1998) on regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration, the Declaration of the South Summit and Havana Programme of Action (2000), which accorded South-South cooperation high priority in order for developing countries to meet new development challenges, as well as other relevant declarations and plans of action,

"*Taking note* of the Ministerial Statement adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-fourth annual meeting, held in New York on 15 September 2000, in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation was emphasized,

"*Welcoming* the Tehran Consensus adopted by the Group of 77 at the Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Tehran from 18 to 22 August 2001, which calls for consolidating the South-South platform, building stronger South institutions at the global level, bridging the knowledge and information gap, building broad-based partnerships and mobilizing global support for South-South cooperation,

"1. *Endorses* the report of the High Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its twelfth session and the decisions adopted by the High Level Committee at that session;

"2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

"3. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant increase and expanded use of South-South cooperation by developing countries as an important and effective instrument of international cooperation and, in this connection, urges developing countries in a position to do so to intensify technical and economic cooperation initiatives at the regional and inter-regional levels in areas such as health, education, training, agriculture, science and new technologies, and in particular information and communication technologies;

"4. *Reiterates* that South-South cooperation should be viewed not as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation and, in that connection, notes with appreciation the increasing number of developed countries and development foundations supporting South-South cooperation activities through a variety of triangular arrangements, including direct support or cost-sharing arrangements, joint research and development projects and third-country training programmes;

"5. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by a number of countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, and to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and invites all countries to contribute to the Trust Funds in support of a revitalized South-South platform designed to benefit developing countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States;

"6. *Recognizes* the urgent need to build stronger South institutions, including policy research and development institutions and centres of excellence, especially at the regional, inter-regional and global levels, and to have linkages among them through networking arrangements, and by making more effective use of the South's institutional capacity, so as to improve South-South knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and information flow, and policy analysis and coordination among developing countries on major development issues of common concern;

"7. *Requests* all organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to make concerted and intensified efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation by way of giving such cooperation appropriate consideration in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes;

"8. *Calls upon* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation and, in this context, welcomes decision 2001/2, of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, in which the Board requested the Administrator to consider reviewing, in the context of the successor programming arrangements, the allocation of additional resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

"9. *Recognizes* the need for raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation as a dynamic form of international development cooperation which can give real content to the concept of ownership and partnership, and for this reason, welcomes the Tehran Consensus proposal to

launch the first International Decade on South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in the South, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on requirements and possible activities to be carried out during the proposed International Decade for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation;

"11. *Reiterates its request* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is maintained and to further strengthen its institutional capacity through mobilizing additional resources to enable it to execute its increased responsibilities effectively as the United Nations system focal point on South-South cooperation;

"12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled 'Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries', and in that context requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to it at that session a report on the state of South-South cooperation and a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 38th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Garfield Barnwell (Guyana), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (A/C.2/56/L.54), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.14.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.54 (see para. 11).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.14 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision A/C.2/56/L.64

6. At its 39th meeting, on 11 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, Francisco Seixas Da Costa (Portugal), and on an exceptional basis, the Committee allowed the representative of Namibia to introduce, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, a draft decision entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community" (A/C.2/56/L.64), which read:

"The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of

cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community:

"(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

"(b) Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session a sub-item entitled 'Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community'."

7. At the 40th meeting on 12 December, the Secretary read out an oral revision to the draft decision, replacing subparagraph (b) with the following:

"(b) *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations', a sub-item entitled 'Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community'."

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Namibia further orally revised the draft decision by adding the following words at the end of subparagraph (b):

"and requests the Secretary-General to update the report on this question and submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session".

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, orally amended subparagraph (b) by inserting the word "current" before the word "report".

10. Also at the 40th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised and amended (see para. 12).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and for ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1] 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, 50/119 of 20 December 1995, 52/205 of 18 December 1997 and 54/226 of 22 December 1999 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling the principles and objectives embodied in the Caracas Programme of Action,[2] adopted at the High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Caracas in May 1981, the San José Declaration and Plan of Action[3] adopted by the Group of 77 at the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment and Finance, held at San José from 13 to 15 January 1997, the Bali Declaration on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries,[4] and the Bali Plan of Action on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries,[5] adopted by the Group of 77 High-level Conference on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 2 to 5 December 1998, and the Declaration of the South Summit and the Havana Programme of Action,[6] adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000, which accorded South-South cooperation high priority in order for developing countries to meet new development challenges, as well as other relevant declarations and plans of action,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-fifth annual meeting,[7] held in New York on 16 November 2001, in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation was emphasized,

Taking note also of the Tehran Consensus, adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the Group of 77[8] held at Tehran from 18 to 22 August 2001, which calls for consolidating the South-South platform, building stronger South institutions at the global level, bridging the knowledge and information gap, building broad-based partnerships and mobilizing global support for South-South cooperation,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1979* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] A/36/333 and Corr.1, annex.

[3] A/C.2/52/8, annex.

[4] A/53/739, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] A/55/74, annexes I and II.

[7] A/56/647, annex.

[8] A/56/358 and Corr.1.

1. *Endorses* the report of the High Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its twelfth session[9] and the decisions adopted by the High-Level Committee at that session;[10]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[11]

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant increase and expanded use of South-South cooperation by developing countries as an important and effective instrument of international cooperation and, in this connection, urges developing countries in a position to do so to intensify technical and economic cooperation initiatives at the regional and interregional levels in areas such as health, education, training, agriculture, science and new technologies, and in particular information and communication technologies;

4. *Reiterates* that South-South cooperation should be viewed not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and, in that connection, notes with appreciation the increasing number of developed countries and development foundations supporting South-South cooperation activities through a variety of triangular arrangements, including direct support or cost-sharing arrangements, joint research and development projects and third-country training programmes;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for concerted action by developing countries and their development partners, including relevant international organizations, with a view to strengthening cooperation and collaboration among developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by a number of countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and invites all countries to contribute to the trust funds in support of a revitalized South-South platform that is designed to benefit developing countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and small island developing countries;

7. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen institutions of the South, including policy research and development institutions and centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to making more effective use of the institutional capacity of the South through, inter alia, improved South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, capacity-building and flow of information and policy analysis and coordination among developing countries on major development issues of common concern;

8. *Requests* all organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to make concerted and intensified efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation by giving such cooperation appropriate consideration in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes;

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[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/56/39).

[10] Ibid., annex I.

[11] A/56/465.

9. *Calls upon* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, and, in this context, recalls decision 2001/2 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, in which the Board requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to consider reviewing, in the context of the successor programming arrangements, the allocation of additional resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries, taking into account the overall financial situation and the need for appropriate resources for other activities;

10. *Recognizes* the need for raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation as a dynamic form of international development cooperation which can give real content to the concept of ownership and partnership, and, for this reason, takes note of the Tehran Consensus proposal to launch the first international decade on South-South cooperation and the United Nations day for South-South cooperation;[12]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in the South, to include in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session concrete measures for promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation, taking into account all relevant initiatives and proposals in this regard;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is maintained and that the Unit is supported so that it may fully implement its mandate and responsibilities as a focal point of the United Nations system for South-South cooperation;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", and requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to it at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

* * *

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community:

[12] See A/56/358 and Corr.1, annex, sect. 5.

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,[13]

(b) Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations", a sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community", and requests the Secretary-General to update the current report on this question and submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

[13] A/56/134 and Add.1.